(b) whether Pakistan has launched a concerted offensive against the Indians fishermen in the disputed Sir Cleek area of the Arabian Sea, apparently with the long-term objejctive of holding way over the marine resource-rich region;

(c) whether Pakistan's armed vessels of its Marine Security Agency often intrudes into the Indian waters off the Saurashtra-Kutch coast; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to check these evil Pakistani designs?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) here are some differences in the interpretation of the boundary in the Sir Cleek area. Discussions, are underway with Pakistan with a view to demarcating the Indo-Pak boundary in the area.

(b) There have been instances of Indian fishing vessels and fishermen being captured by Pakistan. The Indian Coast Guard have also captured Pakistani vessels and fishermen inside our territorial waters.

(c) and (d) whenever such instances have occurred, Government have protested to the Government of Pakistan and urged them to prevent their recurrence. A constant vigil is being maintained in the area by our concerned authorities.

Pakistan's Opposition against India's securing permanent seat in Security Council

1667. SHRI DHULESHWR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Pakistan has decided to oppose Indian efforts to secure a permanent seat in the Security Council; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and steps it propose to take to meet the Pakistan's bid to oppose India for permanent seat in the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) (a) and (b) India has stressed the need for a restructuring of the Security Council in order to reflect more than three fold increase in the membership of the United Nations and the changes in the international situation since the world body's inception. However India has so far not made any specific proposal for a permanent seat for her in the Security Council. The question of opposition by Pakistan therefore does not arise.

Delay in issue of Passports due to Police Report

1668. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is too much delay in issuing of passports to the applicants because of inordinate delay in receiving the police report;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to do away with the police report for issuing of passport to the applicants;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to involve elected representative to recommend the passport application forms; and

(d) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expeditious issue of Passports

1669. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he announced in a recently held Regional